

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 10259 221241Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----041360 221417Z /47

R 221146Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5446

CONFIDENTIAL ROME 10259

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, US, IT, VT  
SUBJECT: VIEWS ON ITALY OF VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER

1. DURING CONVERSATION JUNE 20 AT A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY  
AMBASSADOR LODGE FOR PURPOSE OF INTRODUCING ME TO  
ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI, THE VATICAN'S FOREIGN MINISTER, WE  
HAD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS AT LENGTH OUR POLICY TOWARD ITALY.

2. CASOCOLI WAS WELL VERSED ON SUBJECT AND EXPRESSED HIS  
PERSONAL VIEW THAT OUR CURRENT POLICY AS "ON THE MARK"  
AND THAT IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE WITH THOSE ITALIANS  
WHO ARE WAVERING OR UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY  
IN ITALY THAN A DIRECT AND STRIDENT ANTI-PCI POLICY. HE  
ALSO NOTED THAT HE PERSONALLY DID NOT DOUBT COMMUNIST PARTY  
CHIEF BERLINGUER'S SINCRITY IN PROFESSING ATTACHMENT TO  
PLURALISTIC DEMOCRACY, BUT HE WAS VERY CONCERNED THAT THE  
TRADITIONAL PCI HARD LINERS WOULD PROBABLY PREVAIL.

3. CARAROLI ALSO SUGGESTED THAT FRIENDS AND ALLIES  
SHOULD ASSIST ITALY OUT OF ITS PERENNIAL CRISES, NOT  
ONLY IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD. I THEN OUTLINED OUR THOUGHTS  
FOR INCREASING CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND  
SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AND FOR PROVIDING APPROPRIATE  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. CASAROLI VOICED READY APPROVAL  
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AND ENCOURAGEMENT.GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETING REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decapton Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ROME10259  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Subject:** VIEWS ON ITALY OF VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, PGOV, US, IT, VT  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009